

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims:

14. (Currently Amended) A coal-based cellular product manufactured by the process comprising:

selecting a low volatile bituminous coal and a high volatile bituminous coal;

grinding said low volatile bituminous coal to a size below about 1 mm;

grinding said high volatile bituminous coal to a size below about 1 mm;

loading each of said high and said low bituminous coal into a ceramic mold, wherein said low bituminous coal and said high bituminous coal are separated by partitions within the mold;

vibrating said mold to achieve a predetermined packing density of said low volatile bituminous coal and said high volatile bituminous coal;

removing said partition from said mold;

heating said mold under a non-oxidizing atmosphere to a temperature ranging from about 300°C to about 700°C; and

controllably cooling said coal-based product.